

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended.

Corrected or substitute drawings indicated as received on June 20, 2001 have been accepted.

A paragraph within the specification has been objected to as having an errant reference to a Figure that has been substituted.

Claims 1-16 and 19-24 are pending in this application.

No claims have been amended.

Claims 17-18 have been cancelled.

Claims 19-24 have been added.

Claims 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) was considered as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,708,598 issued to Saito (hereinafter referred to as "Saito") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,353,568 issued to Sung (hereinafter referred to as "Stave").

Claims 1-16 have been allowed.

Acceptance of June 20, 2001 Drawings

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Examiner has accepted the drawings received on June 20, 2001. Applicant notes that the red lined drawings filed with an amendment filed by Applicant on July 2, 2002 have also undoubtedly been accepted, since the Examiner has based both an objection to a paragraph in the specification and a rejection of a claim on these drawings.

Accordingly, Applicant herewith submits a corrected set of drawings for Figures

2a and 2b that reflect the changes proposed in the red lined drawings submitted with the amendment filed by Applicant on July 2, 2002, but are in conformance with requirements of formal drawings, i.e., the red lining has been removed.

Requested Correction of the Specification

The Office Action states that "Figure 2a and Figure 2b substituted Figure 2" and that "Figure 2 has to be deleted." The Office Action has more specifically referred to line 6 of page 4 as having a mention of "Figure 2" that must be replaced with mention of "Figures 2a and 2b." Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's noting of this oversight in Applicant's efforts with the amendment filed July 2, 2002, to replace all mention of "Figure 2" with mention of either "Figure 2a" or "Figures 2a and 2b" as appropriate. With this amendment, Applicant has amended the specification to correct this oversight.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection of Claims 17-18

The Examiner has rejected claims 17-18 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention due to being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements. Claims 17 and 18 have been cancelled and much of their limitations incorporated into new claim 19 which Applicant has written in such a manner as to ensure that essential structural cooperative relationships of elements are not omitted. Therefore, this rejection regarding claims 17 and 18 has been obviated.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection of Claim 17

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito in view of Sung. As discussed, earlier, Applicant

has cancelled both claims 17 and 18, and has incorporated much of the limitations of both claims 17 and 18 into new claim 19.

Allowable Subject Matter in Claims 1-16 and 18, and Objection to Claim 18

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 1-16 and 18 contain allowable subject matter. The Examiner has also objected to claim 18 as being dependent upon rejected independent claim 17, but has indicated that claim 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As previously discussed, Applicant has cancelled both claims 17 and 18, and has incorporated most of their limitations into new claim 19. Applicant respectfully submits that new claim 19 incorporates the limitations required by the Examiner for allowability, and therefore, is in condition for allowance, along with claims 20-24 which depend from claim 19.

Condition for Allowance

Applicant submits that all rejections have been overcome and the present application is now in condition for allowance. If there are any additional charges or shortages related to the present communication, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP



Dated: July 7, 2003

Edwin H. Taylor  
Registration No. 25,129

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on July 7, 2003

Date of Deposit

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Date